

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 11-16, 18, 20, 39 and 40 are pending in the application, with Claim 11 being the only independent claim. Claim 11 has been amended herein. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added.

Claims 11-16, 18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,492,370 (Chatwin et al.) Claims 11 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Chatwin et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,664,952 (Arai et al.). Claims 11 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Chatwin et al. in view of JP 355150370 (Maekawa et al.). Claims 11-16, 18, 20, 39 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Applicants' attorneys gratefully acknowledge the courtesies extended to them by the Examiner in granting a personal interview on April 5, 2005. During that interview, the § 112, first paragraph, and § 103 rejections were discussed. In particular, Applicants proposed amending Claim 11 as it is amended herein. It was agreed that the amendments to Claim 11 obviate the § 112, first paragraph, rejection and the rejections under § 103. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under §§ 103 and 112 are respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 11. Dependent Claims 12-16, 18, 20, 39 and 40 are also patentable, in their own right, for

defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in the independent claim.

Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Williamson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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